

Historical Society of Palm Desert

Box 77 - Palm Desert, Ca. 92261

Phone: (619) 346-6588

SUMMER 1995

"THE HOURGLASS"

NEWSLETTER

SPRING TIME EVENTS SCORE SUCCESSSES!!

ART SHOW

This week-long event in April was sponsored by the Shadow Mountain Palette Club and the Historical Society. It began with a splendid reception honoring the artists and their works. Thanks to all who attended and made it such a fine day of viewing, mingling, chatting with the artists and other art lovers.

The Society's green lawn makes a stunning display area when the wind doesn't blow; however, the week following the reception had several breezy days which forced the paintings indoors. Need we say more? The artists are undaunted and President Keedy says we'll try again. The show is an incomparable treat when the weather cooperates, so let's hope.....



QUICKSILVER CLOGGERS AT THE WESTERN PIT BBQ

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WESTERN PIT BARBECUE & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Many thanks to all who attended this event at the Palm Desert Recreation Center. It was a real winner and we couldn't be more grateful for the support shown for this, our first fund raising effort. Give yourselves a pat on the back!

The Shriners' menu lent new appeal to a pit barbecue.....excellent, EXCELLENT food! The dessert table held an array of cakes and pies that would put the Ritz to shame. They contained T.L.C. because they were home-baked by the Shriners' wives.

The entertainment, likewise, was of stellar quality. The Whitewater Station Band, Desert Sidewinders and Quicksilver Cloggers quickened our pulses just watching them. The band music was so danceable that some of our members were lured to the floor to shake a leg.....and, be sure, the square dancers and the cloggers shook much more. It was great fun!

Spotted in the crowd: Oscar and June Hurley; Ted and Eunice Pearson (happy 90th birthday, Ted); Dolly Olesen with Adele North and Marge Christensen (Adele left the following day to spend summer in Seattle); Marian Henderson; Lee Valdez; Juanita Bosworth; Gene and Jane Roberts; Russ and Irma Marshall; Captain Yazloff and several of the fire fighters who help with Mini-Musters; Art and Helen LaLonde; Don and Frances Pearson from the Coachella Valley Historical Society; Dan and Gloria Kelly with daughter Megan and a girl friend -- great to see the children there. Florence Maxwell and Theda Lundquist brought grandchildren of the adult variety, so it was a mix of all ages. Everyone was telling stories of happy times past (true, of course), which made for a very happy present, indeed. Be sure to get this on your calendar next year. Like the old song, "The more we get together.....the merrier we'll be!"

Door prizes created some extra fun. Eleanor Segall of Bermuda Dunes won the \$250 travel voucher given by Ed Mullins Pharmacies of Palm Desert and La Quinta. Dixie Blandspied of Palm Desert won two nights at the Inn donated by Holiday Express. Other gift items and certificates were provided by: Keedy's Fountain and Grill, Thumbs Up Nail Salon, Desert Maps and Aerial Photos, Louise's Pantry of Palm Desert, Ed Mullins Pharmacies, Malone's Unocal 76, and Rosie's Beauty Salon. Many thanks to these generous donors! Lucky winners included: Elmer Huling, Martin McKell, Bob Owen, Adele North, Craven Holder, Don Lea of Rancho Mirage, and Bill O'Neil of Canyon Lake. Glad you came, h'm?

ELEVENTH ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY PARTY

This celebration which was held on May 15 was an all-around surprise this year. Marian Henderson presented the award in memory of Clifford W. Henderson to Fay Bowie, who was not able to be present because of impending surgery.

With her usual aplomb, Marian made the presentation by telephone. Councilman Dick Kelly, representing the city, with his wife, Mary Helen, and other friends present joined in the telephone round-robin to wish Fay hearty congratulations.

"THIS IS YOUR LIFE"

Fay Bowie arrived in Coachella Valley in 1944 and has been an integral part of the desert scene and the development of Palm Desert since day one. She turned the Golden Rule into a thriving little business, doing for others what she would like to have done for herself, caring for homes of absentee owners and doing everything from handling repairs to collecting people from the airport.

She is an avid stamp collector, an accomplished seamstress, and a 20-year member of the Dickens Fellowship. Her current memberships in Desert Beautiful, Historical Societies of both Coachella Valley and Palm Desert, Breakfast, Books & Banter, The Friends of the College of the Desert Library.....to name a few, indicate the range of her interests.

Although she has dealt with the crippling effects of polio since age four, the determination she exhibits even now helped her to relearn the basic skills of walking, talking and feeding herself. The eldest of seven children, Fay remembers her childhood as "wonderful". Her indomitable spirit made her a natural leader of the neighborhood children, whom she rounded up for Sunday School each week.

Fay is a pioneer and such a popular one. Her early determination to be "one of the bunch" has kept her in the forefront of community activities. She had a knee replacement the day after receiving the Founder's Day award, and her many friends are pulling for her recovery and speedy return to duties at the Society office. No social occasion is complete without Fay presiding at the guest register, greeting friends with her warm smile and clear, blue-eyed gaze, making everyone feel welcome and at ease. We're all part of Fay's family.....so, hurry back, Fay. We miss you!



COUNCILMAN DICK KELLY AND MARIAN HENDERSON
DISPLAY THE AWARD



THE HONOREE

This recent event was sponsored by the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce and was well-attended. Embassy Suites' breakfasts are worth making the effort to be there at 7:30 a.m.

Our own President Bob Keedy was royally, humorously and factually introduced by Mayor Buford Crites and by Jean Hollenbeck. Bob had the honor of presenting the program and he did not disappoint! Showing slides of early Palm Desert, he narrated with the authentic remarks and information that only he, having lived it, could provide. Enjoyment was obvious in the group, and relative newcomers to the valley were mightily impressed and eager to learn more. We welcome their interest and invite them to visit the Society.

The 1995 Senior Inspiration Awards was sponsored this year by Del Webb Corporation and the Regional Access Project Foundation. It was held in the Salon de Fiesta at the La Quinta Hotel, with an attendance topping four hundred. This annual event honors a senior from each valley city and three county-wide nominees. The gala luncheon was a fitting recognition for these seniors, all of whom had to be over 75 to be considered. Dolores Hope was a special guest and celebrity honoree.

Our Historical Society had a double distinction. What a pleasure to see President Bob Keedy chosen from Palm Desert, and Past-President Ed Mullins chosen as one of the county honorees. The aggregate of community service given by the twelve so honored was splendid and staggering in scope. Fast-paced, the program moved along so skillfully that everyone was left in a fine glow of appreciation and exhilaration.

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Keedy.....gave a Sony portable cassette & tapes
Charles M. "Jack" Bowie.....repaired sign and gate at Society office
Richard Nederhauser *.....gave an acid and soda fire extinguisher
from the 1800s

Cathleen Brant.....gave books on the desert area, history
and topography

Desert Sidewinders Square Dance Club.....demonstration squares at the BBQ
Quicksilver Cloggers.....entertainment at the BBQ
Coachella Valley Hiking Club.....security and publicity for BBQ

Roger Keezer is a hiker, a board member of the Historical Society, and a member of the Sheriff's Search & Rescue Team of Palm Desert. He was in uniform at the Western BBQ to assure order, take pictures and and lend a hand wherever needed. A most helpful fella!

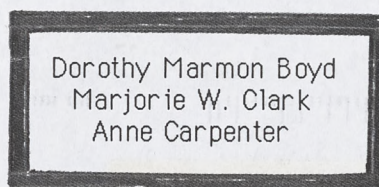
Also, the Hiking Club gave good advance publicity to the BBQ in their News and Notes publication.

Note: * has other antiques and collectibles for sale and can be reached at 346-5012.

NEW MEMBERS

Juanita Bosworth	Ruby Calvert	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Spiegel
Julie O. Haas	Daisy M. Whyte	Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Hurley
Carolyn Fisher	Camille Speer	Mr. & Mrs. Max Binswager
Celia Z. Dunn	Emma K. Hull	Mr. & Mrs. John C. Tyler
Tom & Debbi Miller	Lon Vanodore	Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bagley
Sandpiper at Palm Desert, Inc.		

IN MEMORIAM



March, April, May.....a trio of lovely ladies left us this spring. The histories of all three are richly intertwined with that of Palm Desert, and each left indelible marks in the fabric of the city.

- Dorothy and her husband, Phil Boyd, were founders of The Living Desert and charter members of the Historical Society of Palm Desert.
- Marjorie Clark was a past-president of the Shadow Mountain Palette Club. Her husband, Henry "Hank" Clark, was Palm Desert's first mayor.
- Anne Carpenter worked hard to establish the Historical Society of Palm and served as its president in the 1980s. Tributes to Anne were published in the winter 'Hourglass'.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In memory of Harlan Kittle	from Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Hollenbeck
In memory of Evelyn Chevoor	from Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Lundquist

LOOKING FORWARD TO FALL - B.J. and Dan Callahan are back from Costa Rica and plans are moving forward for the fall Mini-Muster at the schools. Other plans under discussion include the possibility of a historic "show home" being opened to us. Our general membership meeting, scheduled for October 25, may be a morning social.....no tab, no tickee, no lunch, just a fun get-together. How does 10:00 a.m. sound? Stay tuned for invitations to these events.

As we wind down to a slower pace for summer, there's one person who deserves an extra thank-you for a busy season. Bonnie Bowie, our volunteer secretary, not only has superb secretarial skills, but she's computer literate as well -- and, now you know, she's a beautiful square dancer. We appreciate her many talents. Thanks, Bonnie!

Whatever your personal plans for summer, have a good one! The Society office is open on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., so please drop by if you're in town.

Theda Lundquist,
'Hourglass' Editor